

Table 34-1 Percentage of children ages 3–5 who participated in various reading activities with a parent or family member, by selected characteristics: 1991, 1993, 1995, and 1996

Selected characteristics	Read to three or more times in the past week				Told a story at least once in the past week				Visited a library in the past month			
	1991	1993	1995	1996	1991	1993	1995	1996	1991	1993	1995	1996
Total	71.4	77.7	83.1	82.9	72.0	74.7	81.4	82.0	36.6	38.8	41.2	38.2
Child's age ¹												
Age 3	72.7	79.4	83.1	82.6	74.3	77.5	81.5	82.4	31.2	34.4	34.9	34.0
Age 4	71.9	77.5	84.4	82.8	72.3	75.6	81.5	82.4	37.4	41.3	42.2	38.8
Age 5	69.6	76.1	81.7	83.1	69.5	70.8	81.0	81.0	41.3	40.8	46.6	41.9
School enrollment status and level ²												
Not enrolled	68.9	75.5	81.3	80.0	72.7	73.6	79.7	80.2	29.3	32.8	32.9	31.8
Center-based programs ³	73.9	80.8	85.6	84.6	73.4	77.3	82.9	83.4	40.0	42.4	44.2	41.1
Kindergarten ³	71.3	75.9	80.8	83.8	69.1	72.2	80.9	81.9	40.8	41.6	46.0	42.1
Race-ethnicity												
White	77.7	84.0	89.0	88.9	73.8	75.6	83.9	83.9	40.7	42.1	45.1	42.5
Black	59.0	66.8	73.7	75.9	66.0	72.2	74.4	76.6	27.8	32.0	34.1	34.1
Hispanic	53.0	60.2	61.5	65.3	68.4	71.5	75.1	79.3	24.5	27.9	28.0	25.9
Other	65.8	70.8	85.2	87.4	74.2	78.5	80.8	84.3	34.8	43.3	41.5	37.1
Urbanicity ⁴												
Urbanized area	(⁵)	77.0	81.5	82.4	(⁵)	75.0	80.4	82.4	(⁵)	40.5	42.0	38.8
Not an urbanized area	(⁵)	74.5	85.0	82.5	(⁵)	72.4	83.0	80.4	(⁵)	38.2	43.5	41.3
Rural	(⁵)	81.8	86.4	84.6	(⁵)	75.0	83.1	81.3	(⁵)	34.0	37.9	34.8
Household income												
\$10,000 or less	(⁵)	67.0	73.8	74.4	(⁵)	70.9	76.2	77.1	(⁵)	29.7	28.4	27.1
10,001–20,000	(⁵)	72.4	76.0	72.3	(⁵)	74.6	78.0	78.5	(⁵)	31.1	30.8	28.6
20,001–30,000	(⁵)	75.3	82.3	80.1	(⁵)	75.3	82.1	84.5	(⁵)	36.1	40.7	32.8
30,001–40,000	(⁵)	80.4	84.1	87.7	(⁵)	74.0	78.8	83.6	(⁵)	39.3	43.5	45.8
40,001–50,000	(⁵)	85.4	86.6	85.2	(⁵)	76.6	85.3	79.7	(⁵)	51.7	42.6	43.0
50,001 or more	(⁵)	88.9	92.1	93.6	(⁵)	77.3	86.1	85.6	(⁵)	50.1	54.2	49.5
Parents' highest education level												
Less than high school diploma	53.8	54.5	64.4	58.8	67.4	65.3	71.9	72.8	18.3	24.6	18.3	19.4
High school diploma or GED	63.5	73.1	77.9	77.4	68.2	73.6	77.6	79.9	26.0	28.2	31.5	30.1
Some college/vocational/technical	74.0	80.4	85.3	86.5	74.2	74.7	82.9	84.6	38.5	39.6	40.9	37.1
Bachelor's degree	82.1	87.7	89.7	90.9	74.7	77.4	85.0	83.2	52.0	53.9	53.5	51.9
Graduate/professional school	88.3	88.4	94.0	96.1	78.4	81.1	88.2	85.8	59.1	59.5	62.8	59.5
Family structure												
Two biological or adoptive parents	—	81.0	85.6	86.9	—	76.1	82.8	84.1	—	42.5	45.9	41.8
One biological or adoptive parent	—	69.9	77.8	74.3	—	70.7	78.6	76.6	—	31.9	32.4	32.3
One biological/adoptive and one stepparent	—	77.9	75.1	79.6	—	77.4	79.1	79.5	—	32.6	32.2	24.3
Other relatives	—	⁶ 67.5	85.5	⁶ 71.0	—	73.9	⁶ 79.1	84.1	—	⁶ 22.3	15.8	⁶ 27.9

— Not available.

¹ Age as of December 31, 1990 for 1991 data, as of December 31, 1992 for 1993 data, as of December 31, 1994 for 1995 data, and as of December 1, 1995 for 1996 data.² Data are revised from previously published figures.³ See the glossary for definitions of center-based programs and kindergarten.⁴ See the glossary for a definition of urbanicity.⁵ Urbanicity and household income data were not comparable to data for 1993, 1995, and 1996.⁶ Interpret with caution; standard errors are large due to small sample sizes.

NOTE: This analysis includes children ages 3–5 who were not enrolled in first grade. Included in the total but not shown separately are children from other racial-ethnic groups and other types of family structures.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, National Household Education Survey (NHES), 1991 (Early Childhood Education File), 1993 (School Readiness File), 1995 (Early Childhood Program Participation File), and 1996 (Parent and Family Involvement in Education File).